

Comment on AOR 2003-02

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COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF GENERAL  
COUNSEL

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Box 877,  
Brookline, MA 02446-0007

February 14, 2003

to: Federal Election Commission  
999 E. St., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20463

Dear Sir/Madame,

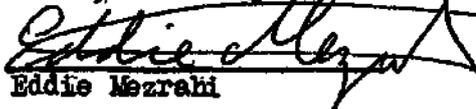
I am writing this letter to you as a member of the National Organization for Women and in support of the appeal of the Socialist Workers National Campaign Committee for a six-year exemption from disclosing the names of its contributors to your agency as required by current law.

The Socialist Workers Party has a long history of running socialist candidates in various elections on issues of interest to working people and women. It has a long history of well-documented record of persecution and harassment by various legal and extra-legal bodies which makes such disclosure a prime target for retaliation by these groups.

Much of that earlier history has been recorded in the party's victory in 1986, in the lawsuit against the government and various federal agencies. Similar violations, subsequent to that date are also well recorded sometimes on a low ebb and others on the rise. After the passage of the 2001 USA Patriot Act, the Committee finds itself even more susceptible to probes by government agencies and right-wing and extra-legal groups for retaliation and persecution, and finds itself justified on the basis of the right to privacy and also its small size, to retain the confidentiality of its contributors.

Thank you very much.

Yours, Sincerely

  
Eddie Mezrahi

c.c.: National Organization for Women  
July 26th Coalition  
Irish Northern Aid